Boushiya Ellipsis

Bliss & Storm in Heaven

Volume 1 Chapter 7

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帽子屋エリプシス
Ellipse du chapelier
Ellipse.07

.....
WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT...?
HAYA, COULD YOU LOOK AFTER THE SHOP FOR A WHILE?
I GOT AN ORDER FROM A COOK IN TAIWAN I'M JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE TO DELIVER THE HAT
Isn't it nice?
Pop
HAT
...HAVE FUN...
Jeez!
AND I'VE TOLD HIM NOT TO COME TO SCHOOL! WHAT'LL I DO IF MINORU FINDS OUT?
mutter
mutter
AND ESPECIALLY LOOKING LIKE THAT...

STUDENT COUNCIL
HOW NAIVE!
DOES HAYA REALLY THINK THERE'S ANY WAY HE CAN HIDE SOMETHING FROM ME?
HE'S BEEN SNEAKING AROUND EVER SINCE HE INHERITED IT'A BUILDING IN SHIBUYA.
I HEARD IT'S A HAT SHOP THAT GRANTS WISHES!
NO WAY!
WHAT THE HELL?
MY INVESTIGATION'S ALREADY TOLD ME THAT HE'S TEAMED UP WITH THAT SAKAGIRI GUY AS HIS WORLD TO RUN SOME KIND OF SUSPICIOUS BUSINESS!
Investigation (stalking)
huh?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, OZU-KUN?

ARE THESE ALL OF THE CLUB APPLICATIONS FOR BUDGET INCREASES?
OH... YES, THAT'S IT, PRESIDENT!
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR WORK, VICE PRESIDENT.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORK DURING LUNCH BREAK.
smile
BUT THANKS TO YOU, ALL OF THIS GOT FINISHED EARLY.
THIS IS KUDOU-SENPAI, OUR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT.
A BRILLIANT STUDENT AND A TALENTED ATHLETE, HE ALWAYS DOES HIS WORK IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL WITH A BRIGHT SMILE,
AND HE'S CONSIDERATE TOWARDS EVEN THE UNDER-CLASSMEN.
NOT AT ALL...!

HE IS THE IDEAL HUMAN BEING... IN OTHER WORDS, THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF HAVA!
HE DOESN'T LISTEN IN CLASS, AND HE'S A COMPLETE MORON.
HAVA! The teacher's comin'!
AND I'M ALWAYS THE ONE WHO HAS TO WATCH OUT FOR HIM!
I WISH YOU'D FOLLOW SENPAI'S EXAMPLE A BIT...!
GROW!
OH, I'M SORRY
OH... OKAY
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN LUNCH YET, SENPAI?
PLEASE, GO AHEAD!
I've already eaten!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER...?
SIGH
TAP

SENPAI ALREADY HAS HIS COLLEGE PLANS SET AND A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM, SO WHAT COULD HE BE WORRYING ABOUT?
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG...
SNEAK
stalker mode
?
NO... IT'S JUST THAT THE WEATHER'S SO NICE TODAY
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT MAYBE I SHOULD EAT OUTSIDE SOME-TIMES
CLATTER
WOULD YOU MIND IF I SAT HERE?
AH...
NO, GO AHEAD
UH, LET'S SEE...
HAVE I SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?

HUH?
AH, YOU'RE OZU-KUN'S...?
bow
THANKS FOR ALWAYS WATCHING OUT FOR MINORU!
I'M HIS COUSIN
I'm also an Ozu.
TALK ABOUT SLOW ON THE UPTAKE!
Oh!
The Student Body President?!
Really? Wow, that's quite the mouthful.
We're in the same class and sometimes sit next to each other.
THEY'RE... THEY'RE GETTING ALONG?
grind
OH, THAT LOOKS GOOD!
clack
IT'S A SEAWEED BENTO!

I really envy you, having such a nice bento for lunch.
Lately, all I ever have is bread.
My mother hates making lunch!
Though I sometimes buy a bento at the convenience store.
Yes I suppose so.
Did I say something odd?
Huh?
No.
Could you listen and not laugh at me?
Nod
Nod
My family runs a small factory
Since my parents are always so busy, my grandmother makes me lunch instead.

SHE WOULD ALWAYS COME UP WITH MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF COLORFUL BENTOS...
HAVE A GOOD DAY, TSUKASA!
...AND THEY AND HER KIND WORDS ALWAYS CHEERED ME UP.
BUT LATELY, IT'S ALWAYS...
DO YOU DISLIKE SEAWEED BENTOS?
They're so delicious!
NO... THAT'S NOT IT
BUT LATELY, OUR EYES JUST MEET AS THOUGH TO ASK...
BUT THEN..
"YOU SEEM DOWN LATELY WHAT'S THE MATTER?"
—HAVE A GOOD DAY—
...I'M OFF TO SCHOOL.

YOU BOTH DO?
YEAH... ME, TOO.
EVEN THOUGH I SHOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT HAVING MY COLLEGE PICKED OUT, I JUST FEEL KIND OF LISTLESS AND TIRED.
THERE REALLY SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO DO OR SOMETHING...
BUT I SUPPOSE THIS ISN'T SOMETHING I SHOULD BE TALKING TO YOU ABOUT.
OH, NOT AT ALL!
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM!
BUT... SAKAGIRI'S NOT HERE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE'S ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF MINORU, AFTER ALL!
CLENCH
HMM

KUDOU-SENPAI...! WHY HAYA, OF ALL PEOPLE?!
I'M RIGHT HERE AND I WANT TO HELP YOU! WHY ARE YOU DISREGARDING ME?!
IT ALWAYS GOES THIS WAY!
HE'S ALWAYS SPACED OUT, BUT HE'S GOT THE BEST LUCK, AND PEOPLE LIKE HIM
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT HAYA...!
GLARE
JUST YOU WATCH, HAYA! I'LL HELP SENPAI FIX HIS PROBLEMS BEFORE YOU CAN!
AND SINCE YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER ISN'T HERE TO HELP YOU...
WE'LL SEE WHO'S REALLY BETTER!

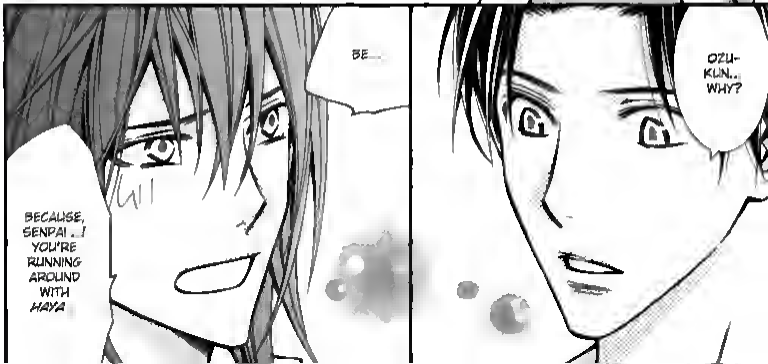
KRS CLANG
I'M HOME!
Sorry about all the noise
GRANDMA?
OH, YOU'RE BACK, TSUKASA!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GRANDMA, SHE'S OUT RIGHT NOW.
HUH? WHERE?
I DON'T KNOW... YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW SINCE YOU'VE BEEN AT SCHOOL,
BUT LATELY SHE STAYS OUT UNTIL DUSK ALMOST EVERY DAY.

PERHAPS IT'S THE KNITTING CLASS SHE ALWAYS GOES TO. .
I'M AFRAID NOT..
KUDOU-SAN HASN'T BEEN HERE IN A WHILE
WE'VE ALL BEEN WORRIED ABOUT HER, WONDERING IF SHE'S BEEN ILL.
I SEE...
WELL, SHE ALSO OFTEN WENT TO...
SHE HASN'T COME BY HERE IN A WHILE.
Go classes
SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE RECENTLY
Tea Ceremony

YOUR GRANDMOTHER HAS QUITE A LOT OF HOBBIES, DOESN'T SHE, KUDOU-SENPAI?
KNITTING, GO AND TEA CEREMONY?
APPARENTLY, SHE ONLY STARTED GOING RECENTLY.
SHE USED TO ALWAYS BE ON MY BACK TO STUDY MORE, AFTER ALL
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Click
BUT EVERYONE SAYS THAT SHE HASN'T BEEN COMING LATELY...
THERE IS SOME-THING ODD ABOUT IT
MAYBE SHE'S JUST BEEN TOO TIRED LATELY... TO MAKE HER BENTOS, I MEAN.
EXCUSE ME...
Creak

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER WITH KUDOU-SAN?
I'VE BEEN HEARING ODD RUMORS RECENTLY.
THAT SHE'S BEEN GOING AROUND TO CHINESE RESTAURANTS,
OR THAT SHE'S ALWAYS STANDING IN THE PARK IN THE EVENING.
CHINESE...?
THE PARK?
I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD BE TELLING YOU THIS.
BUT A YOUNG MAN CAME TO ASK ABOUT THE SAME THING BEFORE YOU TWO, AND IT HAD ME WONDERING
A YOUNG MAN?!
YA
R A M

Sudden meeting.
Ah!
Thank you very much!
MINORU...!
OZU-KUN.. WHY?
It-
It's got nothing to do with me!
I'm just a custom-er!
I wasn't secretly trying to get ahead of you...!
YOU WERE TOO
sesame dumplings
flustered
flustered
seen!


BE...
BECAUSE, SENPAI..! YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND WITH HAYA
OZU-KUN.. WHY?

WAIT, MINORU! DID YOU HEAR ABOUT KUDO-SENPAI'S GRANDMA AND COME TO CHECK, TOO?
press
THANK YOU, OZU-KUN
UH...
NO, DON'T MEN-TION.
YOU'RE SO NICE!
Pat
Pat
IT'S ALREADY GETTING TOWARDS DUSK LET'S GO TO THE PARK
YOU COME TOO, MINORU!
You can join us!
I WAS GOING TO GO AHEAD AND GET THE JUMP ON HAYA, BUT INSTEAD I'M BEING TREATED LIKE THE KID WHO GOT LEFT OUT ON A FIELD TRIP!
the shame...!!
OH!

TSUKASA!
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU! I WENT TO THE SHOP WHERE YOU HAVE KNITTING LESSONS AND YOUR OTHER CLASSES TOO.
AND I HEARD THAT YOU'D BE HERE

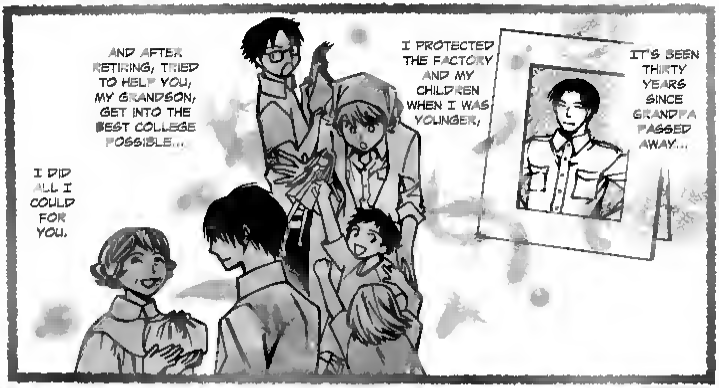
GRANDMA!

EVERY-ONE WAS WORRIED!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING..?

.....
LET'S GO HOME
NO
GRANDMA!

I'M WAITING

Huh?!
blush
For my first love.


I DID ALL I COULD FOR YOU.
AND AFTER RETIRING, TRIED TO HELP YOU, MY GRANDSON, GET INTO THE BEST COLLEGE POSSIBLE...
I PROTECTED THE FACTORY AND MY CHILDREN WHEN I WAS YOUNGER,
IT'S BEEN THIRTY YEARS SINCE GRANDPA PASSED AWAY...

JUST BY CHANCE, I DROPPED BY THIS PARK, WHERE I'D COME OFTEN WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE
AND WHEN I DID...

I TRIED STARTING LOTS OF CLASSES,
BUT IN THE MORNING, IF I THOUGHT THAT YOU SEEMED A BIT DOWN, TSUKASA, THAT ALONE WAS ENOUGH TO WORRY ME AND KEEP ME FROM DOING ANYTHING...
AND ONCE ALL OF THOSE WERE DONE, I BECAME LONELY...

FIFTY YEARS AGO?
THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT WAS THE MORE IT WEIGHED ON MY MIND..
SO I SEARCHED FOR HIM.
FIFTY YEARS AGO, IN THIS SAME PLACE, THE SAME FIRST LOVE WHOM I SOMETIMES CROSSED PATHS WITH...
WAS THERE, LOOKING EXACTLY AS HE DID SO LONG AGO..
HE WAS THERE

!!
WELL. HE WORE BLACK, CHINESE-STYLE CLOTHES AND WAS CARRYING A BAMBOO STEAMER.
SPEAKING OF WHICH YOU WERE GOING AROUND TO CHINESE RESTAURANTS...
I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE FROM A CHINESE RESTAURANT
IT'S—
IT'S SAKAGIRI!!!
Huh? Have I seen him...?
Aha ha...
NO, IT'S HIM.
I KNOW THAT IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE MY FIRST LOVE, AND THAT'S IT'S NOT ACTUALLY HIM.
BUT I NEVER FOUND HIM.
IF I MET HIM AGAIN...
WELL, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD THING THAT I NEVER FOUND HIM.

HIS EYES...
MAY HAVE DRAGGED ME IN...
TO THE SAME DREAM FROM FIFTY YEARS AGO.
GRANDMA...
TSUKASA! ONCE YOU'RE IN COLLEGE, BRING A GIRLFRIEND BACK WITH YOU!
HUH?!
You're just so serious!
clap
UH...
okay
BUT YOU KNOW...
tug
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I was such a girl then...

Here senpai, if you'd like them
sesame dumplings
WE CAN SIT DOWN FOR SOME TEA
YOU SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME WITH ME, TOO
Sit
OKAY.
I... I ALWAYS LIKED HAVING YOUR LOVELY BENTOS,
BUT I ALSO WANTED TO JUST SIT AND EAT AND TALK WITH YOU, GRANDMA, JUST LIKE THIS
WHY DON'T WE COME HERE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?
It looks delic- Jis!
LET'S GO, MINORU.

clench
victory?
victory is mine!
THIS IS GREAT!
SENPAI'S TROUBLES HAVE ALL BEEN FIXED BECAUSE I GAVE HIM SESAME DUMPLINGS!
indeed
YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM HIM!
Yes
WHO EVER KNEW HE WAS SUCH A GOOD GRANDSON?
BUT KUDOU-SENPAI REALLY IS AN AMAZING PERSON...

YOU IDI ...!
AND YOU TOO, MINORU
WHY ME?!
YEAH.

DON'T LAUGH AT ME!
SHUT UP!
grin
BECAUSE YOU'RE SO NICE!